Increase in Import Duties on Perishable Items

4445. SHRI K.M KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased import duties on some of the perishable items like apples, etc.;

(b) if so, the details tereof and the percentage of duties increased on each item;

(c) whether apple growers in India are likely to be benefited due to hike in import duty;

(d) if so, in what manner; and

(e) how much revenue is likely to be generated through these duties during the current finacial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, the Government have increased import duties on some perishable items like fresh grapes and apple with effect from 5.42000. The Basic Customs duty and Surcharge on fresh grapes has been raised from 27.5% to 38.5% and that on apple has been raised from 38.5% to 50%. A Special Additional Duty @ 4.% is also applicable on import of these items.

Increase in Customs duty on apple will provide higher protection to the domestic apple growers against the imports.

Since the revenue realized depends on the actual volume of imports of any particular item, the revenue impact of increase in duties cannot be anticipated.

Import of Onion

4446. SHRI K.M. KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of onion imported from the foreign countries during the current year;

(b) what are the names of the countries and the details of the expenditure incurred on import of onion, country-wise;

(c) how much qantity of onion was imported from Pakistan during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(d) the total expenditure incured on the import of onion from Pakistan; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No import of fresh onion was reported during April, 1999 to September, 1999.

(c) and (d) The quantity of onion imported and total expenditure incurred on the import of onion from Pakistan during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as under:—

Qty. in Tonnes

Value in Rs. Lakh

year	Quantity	Value
1997-98	–	–
1998-99	41.5	96.56

(e) Onions are freely importable.

Import Duty on Marble Products/Stones

†4447. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Import duty is less on marble products;

(b) whether it is also a fact that import duty on marble stones is more; and

(c) in what way it will be beneficial to India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Marble products are classified under Exim Heading 68.02 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002. Import of these items attract basic Customs duty @ 35%, Surcharge @ 3.5% and Special Additional Duty @ 4%. These items also attract Additional Duty of Customs @ 16%.

Marble stone including rough and crude marble is classified under Exim Heading 25.15 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.